



NEWS RELEASE

Contact:

Maria Jurado-Flynn, Manager
Cleveland Better Home Town, Inc.
Phone: (706) 969-3336
mflynn@clevelandbetterhometown.org

Garrison Baker Elected Chairman for Cleveland Better Home Town Program

Cleveland, Georgia (June 24, 2008) – The Cleveland Better Home Town Board of Directors is proud to announce the election of new officers and board members. At last week's board meeting Garrison Baker was elected Chairman of the Board for Cleveland Better Home Town. Jeff Hunt was elected Vice-Chairman, Judy Lovell as Secretary and Greg Thomas, Treasurer. Other newly elected Directors include Nadine Wardenga and George Hlavenka. They join existing Board Members, Rush Mauney, Tom O'Bryant, Rick Post and Rachel Marshall. Charlie Thomas, outgoing Chairman of the Board welcomed the newly elected members and recognized them as outstanding representatives of the community. He along with Judy Walker, retiring secretary, are both leaving the board as part of a normal rotation. Both are founding board members of Cleveland Better Home Town and through their leadership, paved the way for the organization to grow.

"Leadership is without a doubt the foundation for any successful organization and we have been blessed to have so many community leaders wanting to take a role in our downtown revitalization," said Garrison Baker. "I'm delighted to serve on this board and proud to be selected as Chairman."

Garrison Baker has served as White County's Probate Judge for the past 25 years. He also serves as the Municipal Court Judge for the City of Cleveland and as an on-call Magistrate for the White County Magistrate Court. In addition, he represents White County on a number of local and regional boards, and serves as Chairman of Ninth District Opportunity, Inc., a regional Community Action Agency that operates federal and state programs in 32 north Georgia counties. A life-long resident of White County, Garrison is keenly interested in the conservation and preservation of the local area's history and cultural heritage. He is the author of two books - *A History of Crescent Hill Church* and *In the Shadow of Yonah - A History of White County, Georgia*, and has also written a number of essays and articles on local history for area publications. He serves on the board of directors for the White County Historical Society, as well as Chairing the Historic Preservation Committee for Cleveland Better Home Town. Garrison and his wife, Susan have a son, Cody, son and daughter-in-law, Joe and Karen, and brand-new grandson, Luke. They make their home in the Blue Creek community of White County.

Jeff Hunt is a life-long resident of White County, a graduate of White County High School, University of Georgia and the University of Wisconsin (school of bank operations). He is a Georgia Real Estate Broker and has been employed in all phases of banking for the past 30 years and is currently the White County Division President for Community Bank & Trust, a position he has held for 4 years. Jeff is a respected member of White County Rotary, White County FFA Alumni, Director of Northeast Georgia Council of Boy Scouts of America, North Georgia Chapter of American Truck Historical Society and serves on the Allocations Committee of the United Way of White County. His wife's name is Holly and together they have 4 children and attend the Mossy Creek United Methodist Church.

The organization expects to continue its positive impact on the downtown under the leadership of Board Chairman, Garrison Baker and Vice-Chairman, Jeff Hunt. Each of the new and existing board members all will play a key role in the Cleveland Better Home Town revitalization program. Their individual talents and expertise combined

will produce visible results in the year to come. If you are interested in assisting with the Cleveland revitalization please contact Cleveland Better Home Town at 706-969-3336.

Cleveland Better Home Town, Inc. is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 charitable organization. In 2007, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs official designated Cleveland as a, "*Georgia Better Home Town.*" Cleveland Better Home Town is a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and works to promote the 4-Point Approach to downtown revitalization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law and help to support the Cleveland revitalization program.

**Cleveland Better Home Town, Inc.
3 Courthouse Square * Cleveland, GA 30528
(706) 969-3336**

###